

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY & PLANNING
University of Toronto
JPG1660H1F
Regional Dynamics

Fall, 2018

INSTRUCTOR:

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DESCRIPTION:

This course examines theoretical and empirical research that addresses a fundamental question in economic geography: why, in an era of increasing globalization, light-speed communication and the potential for seemingly effortless pan-global collaboration, has the region remained a fundamentally important level of analysis for socioeconomic processes? In so doing, literatures dealing with regional economic development, knowledge circulation, corporate organization, globalization, global value chains, evolutionary economics, innovation, the role of institutions and culture in economic growth and change, and economic clusters generally will be interrogated.

ORGANIZATION:

One two-hour seminar per week.

The last 30 minutes of each session will be used for groups to engage in discussion regarding the questions submitted each week.

GRADE DETERMINATION:

1. Research proposal	15%
2. Group discussions & general class participation	20%
3. Research paper	45%
4. Weekly reflections & Questions (due by 8am on day of seminar)	20%

SUGGESTED READING:

We will make use of a listing of scholarly journal articles (see below). Note that no hard copy of these articles is being made available. All of the required readings are available through the UTL Course Reserves Website: <https://cr.library.utoronto.ca/studenthome/id/260058>

It is expected that each student will come to class each week having read the required readings and be able to contribute to class discussions and group work. Only the required readings (i.e., those references with an asterisk beside them in the schedule) are considered “**required reading**” and hence fair game for the mid-term test.

PENALTY FOR LATE WORK:

A late penalty of 5% per day will be applied to assignments that are late by one week (defined as 7 consecutive days including weekends and holidays) or less. Assignments that are more than one week late will not be accepted.

A NOTE ON ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Students are reminded that there is a [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#). You can read about ‘The Code’ by following the previous link OR in hard or digital copies of the Faculty of Arts and Science Calendar. Students are expected to abide by this code.

ABOUT DOCTORS NOTES:

Circumstances always arise which cause some people to legitimately miss a deadline. If you do become ill [or

are otherwise incapacitated] you must submit a completed official UofT medical form with your assignment (note it must be filled in and signed by the attending physician). The instructor reserves the right to validate all medical documentation submitted (note this usually involves calling the physician).

SUBMITTING YOUR ESSAYS USING TURNITIN.COM:

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

GEOGRAPHY MATH HELP CENTRE

While GGR431H does not make use of mathematics directly, many of the required readings do use numerical and/or statistical methods. The Geography Math Help Centre could be a useful resource for many. Geography TAs will be available to help refresh and explain math concepts and techniques that may come up in your Geography courses. This includes working with formulas, graphing data, completing calculations, and so forth. It does not matter how basic your questions are! No appointment is required, just drop by. There will also be table space available in the room, allowing students to get math help as they work through assignments. Details on location and TA times will be posted here: <http://geography.utoronto.ca/undergraduate/math-help/>

DETAILS:

Research Proposal

Propose a research question relating to course material that you will address in a research essay. In order to do well on this assignment, the proposal must show clear evidence of prior research and some reflection (1-2 **double-spaced** pages).

Final Research Paper (Essay)

Based on your proposal and subsequent research each student will write a formal essay of no more than 3,500 words. The paper will comprehensively discuss and critique the chosen issue on the basis of relevant scholarly sources (10-15 **double-spaced** pages).

Weekly Reflections (1Ps)

Each student must submit 3 weekly reflections (i.e., 1-pagers or 1Ps) over the term (i.e., it is up to you to choose the 3 weeks for which you will submit reading reflections). The reflections should be **no more than 250-300 words**. Exceeding the word limit will count against you. **The best reflections will not be those which seek to individually summarize each article (indeed, you are limited in terms of word count, so this is not practical) BUT RATHER those which attempt to synthesize all of a particular weeks' readings and put them into context vis-à-vis earlier material and topics.** I encourage you to take reading notes for each and every article you read. (n.b., if your notes include quotations make sure you use quotation marks and take note of the pages from which you are quoting to enable you to cite properly.) **The quality of the weekly reflections (1Ps) will be assessed in terms of their clarity, their comprehensiveness, and their thoughtfulness.**

Weekly Set of 3 Questions (3Qs)

Every week each student will submit three (3) questions formed on the basis of the readings for that week and which they think would be usefully subjected to more in depth discussion. Your questions should not be about facts and figures or about mechanics **but rather about broader conceptual/theoretical matters raised in the readings.** The quality of the questions will be gauged in terms of their clarity, thoughtfulness, and relevance/connection to the assigned material. **The questions must be submitted to me in digital format by 8am on the day of the seminar.** I will then organize the questions by theme and submit these to breakout groups for discussion. These breakout groups will then report back to the full class and engage in a seminar discussion.

Submitting Your Work

All work will be submitted via through Quercus. Note that all submissions will undergo an evaluation for textual similarity via turnitin.com.¹

Discussion Groups (i.e., breakout groups)

The class will be divided into a number of smaller groups (the size and number will depend on enrolment). A portion of class time each week will be used to allow the groups to meet and discuss assigned questions (I will assign questions to groups based on the questions submitted by students), and then all of the groups and I will openly discuss them. Everyone **MUST PARTICIPATE**. A large part of your class participation grade will be based on this participation.

Class Attendance and Participation

Weekly attendance and degree of preparation and participation will be tracked and will figure prominently in your grade (20%). Full marks on this item will require that you attend each session having read the assigned readings and engage in discussion with the rest of the class.

¹ make sure that the file(s) you submit as attachments include **your surname** in the filename(s). (e.g., difrancesco_reflection_week 2.pdf; smith_3questions_week 4.pdf; chang_reflection_week 5.pdf; etc.).

SCHEDULE:

Lecture	Date	Topic	Readings (only those with an asterisk (*) are required).
1	9/6	Introduction to Regional Dynamics	
2	9/13	Regions Reconsidered	Storper (1995) * Scott and Storper (2003)*
3	9/20	Industrial Districts (3Qs+1 pager)	Boschma and Lambooy (2002)* Boschma and Ter Wal (2007)* Markusen (1996)* Feldman and Zoller (2012)*
4	9/27	Evolutionary Economic Geography and Path Dependence (3Qs+1 pager) <u>Research Proposal Due - submit to Tii</u>	Essletzbichler and Rigby (2007)* Boschma and Frenken (2009)* Boschma and Lambooy (1999)* Bathelt and Boggs (2003)*
5	10/4	Clusters (3Qs+1 pager)	Porter (2000)* Feser et al. (2008)* Feldman et al. (2005) Cumbers and Mackinnon (2004)* Wolfe and Gertler (2004)* Giuliani and Bell (2005)* Morrison (2008)*
6	10/11	Knowledge Spillovers and Cluster Formation (3Qs+1 pager)	Audretsch and Lehmann (2005) Doring and Schnellenbach (2006)* Bathelt et al. (2004)* Maskell (2014)* Enkel and Gassman (2010)*
7	10/18	Cluster Evolution and Cluster Policy (3Qs+1 pager)	Ter Wal and Boschma (2011)* Ter Wal (2013)* Njøs and Jakoksen (2016)* Christensen and Stoerring (2012)* Asheim et al. (2011) Østergaard and Park (2015)
8	10/25	The Problem of Phased Production - Where exactly is value actually created?	Coe et al. (2004)* Breznitz (2013)* Linden et al. (2009) Ali-Yrkkö and Rouvinen (2015)
	10/25	<u>Mid-term test (first hour - undergraduates only) - in class (note: the second half of the class will consist of a seminar - all must attend).</u>	
Fall Reading Week - Nov 5-9			
9	11/1	Global Value Chains/Global Production Networks (3Qs+1 pager)	Sturgeon and Gereffi (2009)* Gereffi and Lee (2012)* Gereffi et al. (2005) * Sturgeon et al. (2008)*

10	11/15	Global Value Chains, Strategic Coupling and Regional Upgrading (3Qs+1 pager) <u>Essay Due - Submit to Tii</u>	Gereffi (2011)* Gereffi (2009)* Yeung (2015)* Coe et al. (2004) * Pietrobelli and Rabellotti (2011)*
11	11/22	Global Value Chains: a dark side? (3Qs+1 pager)	Pavlinek, (2016)* Pavlínek and Ženka (2011)* Humphrey and Schmitz (2002)* Schmitz and Knorringa (2000)* Neilson and Pritchard (2009)
12	11/29	Universities and knowledge transfers in regional economic development (3Qs+1 pager)	Feldman et al. (2014) * Saxenian (1996): ch. 1 Bramwell and Wolfe (2008) Breznitz (2014), Chs. 1,2 * Breznitz et al. (2008)

READING LIST:

All required readings are available on the UTL Course Reserves Website:

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